

**From:** Laurie [laurietimmons@lifelineofhope.org]

**Sent:** Friday, November 07, 2003 1:21 PM

**To:** adoptionregs@state.gov

**Subject:** Want to Help

We are a non profit charitable organization that has been aiding and supporting Russian orphaned children for four years. We have established non profit status in Russia under the name of Life Ring and have a director there and several employees who oversee our mission in Russia. Life Ring and Lifeline of Hope are well known, respected and welcomed by the officials in far east Russia that work with children. Thus, we recently obtained State Licensure as a Child Placing Agency in the State our office is in. Even though, we personally know, visit, and communicate with the officials, children and citizens of the areas we provide services, we are not able to connect potential adoptive parents with the children we provide aid to due to the current accreditation laws. (ie: licensed agency for 4 years). Thus, we can only provide consultation and support through another "Accredited" agency in Russia that does not even coordinate adoption services in the region we provide aid to. This handicaps our desire to complete our circle of support to these abandoned children. For those that we assist to medicate, educate, nurture and provide hope, we cannot answer their request for parents to love them. I hope that with the new accreditation requirements and with the Hague Convention coming up, that organizations like ours will be acknowledged, respected and welcomed into the system, rather than overlooked and disregarded because, we became an adoption Agency to late.

Our staff is made up of professional, christian, individuals whom have all adopted children from Russia, yet, our hands are tied. Cannot there be certain requirements and/or guidelines for organizations such as ours, that truly have a vested interest in each individual child that we care for that waits for loving parents?

Thank you for your review of this letter.

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